

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

Statement Of The Interview

Applicants expresses appreciation to the Examiner (Mr. Cazan) for the courtesy of the telephone interview held on October 14, 2009, with applicant's representatives, Kumar Maheshwari (Reg. No. 60,443) and Ted Rittmaster (Reg. No. 32,933). In the interview, claim 1 was discussed. In addition, the following references were discussed: Kobayashi. More specifically, Applicant's representatives discussed claim amendments that would overcome the Kobayashi reference.

Status of the Claims

Claims 1 and 3 are amended. Claims 2, 4, 7 and 10 were cancelled, without prejudice or disclaimer. New claims 17 – 20 are added.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC §102 & 103

Claims 1, 3, 6, 9 and 11-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Kobayahsi (U.S. Patent No. 6,601,289). Claims 5 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kobayashi.

Claims 1 and 3 as amended recite, among other features, A method of manufacturing a superconducting wire that comprises, setting the temperature of a heater adapted to provide heat to said wire such that said wire is maintained at a substantially constant temperature between greater than or equal to 80 °C and less than or equal to 300 °C for the entire duration the at least one interval of less than seven days. As discussed in the interview with the Examiner Kobayashi fails to teach or suggest at least the above recited features.

Instead, Kobayashi teaches or suggests, increasing the temperature of a wire during a heat treatment. (Column 18, lines 15-17) Kobayashi fails to refer to setting the temperature of a heater adapted to provide heat to said wire such that said wire is maintained at a substantially contact temperature for the entire duration of the interval. Kobayashi increases the temperature of the wire from 100 °C to 300 °C at varying rates to minimize blisters.

(Table 1) However, the present invention is directed toward holding the wire between various steps of drawing, rolling and sintering at a substantially constant temperature to facilitate the evaporation of the residues contained within the wire. (Original Specification, page 5, lines 15-20)

Therefore, Kobayashi fails to teach or suggest at least the above recited features of claims 1 and 3. Because claims 5, 6, 11, 13, and 15 depend from claim 1, they are believed to be allowable. Because claims 8, 9, 12, 14 and 16 depend from claim 3, they are believed to be allowable.

New Claims

New claims 17-20 are added to further protect aspects of the present invention. New claims 17-20 are supported by the present disclosure. New claims 18 – 28 are each dependent on independent claims 1 and 15. Accordingly, each of the new claims 18 – 28 are patentably distinguishable over the references of record, at least for reasons as discussed above with respect to claims 1 and 15. In addition each new claim 18-29 are further distinguished from the references of record.

For example, new claim 17 recites among other features a method of manufacturing a superconducting wire, that includes, providing at least one interval between said step of providing a drawn wire and said step of rolling; and maintaining the temperature of said wire at a substantially constant temperature between greater than or equal to 80 °C and less than or equal to 300 °C during the at least one interval of less than seven days. As discussed in the Examiner interview dated October 14, 2009, Kobayashi fails to teach providing at least one interval between said step of providing a drawn wire and said step of rolling where the wire is maintained at a substantially constant temperature. Therefore claim 17 is believed to be allowable. Because claims 18-20 depend from claim 17, they are believed to be allowable for at least the same reasons claim 18 is believed to be allowable.

Concluding Remarks

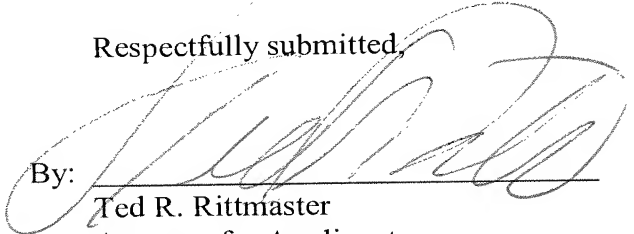
After amending the claims as set forth above, claims 1, 3, 5, 6, 8, 9 and 11-20 are pending in this application.

Applicants believe that the present application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by the credit card payment instructions in EFS-Web being incorrect or absent, resulting in a rejected or incorrect credit card transaction, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicants hereby petition for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

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